the above period; if so, the number thereof;

(e) whether any scrutiny/monitoring of the expenditure was made by any agencies of the Central Government during the above period; and

(f) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Centenary Celebration of Distinguished Personalities

1347. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL alias MEEM AFZAL : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the distinguished personalities whose centenary celebrations have been observed during 1985 to 1992; and

(b) the expenditure incurred by Government on the centenary celebrations of each such personality ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) During the last three years, the Department observed the centenary celebration of Late Shri Jamna Lal Bajaj and late Shri Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan.

(b) The expenditure incurred by Government on these centenary celebrations are Rs. 0.50 lakhs and Rs. 5.40 lakhs, respectively.

Eliminating Illiteracy from Bihar

1348. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have prepared any special plan to attain 85 per cent literacy in the State of Bihar in the near future;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) what targets for primary, upper primary and elementary classes have been fixed to be achieved in the State; and

(d) how Government propose to achieve the goal of eliminating illiteracy from Bihar ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) and (b) The Government have not prepared any special plan to this effect. However, the National Literacy Mission has the objective of imparting functional literacy to 80 million persons in the target age group of 15-35 by the year 1995 over the entire country. As part of the NLM strategy, Total Literacy Campaigns have been taken up in Bihar in the districts of Madhepura, Madhubani, Saharsa and Siwan. In addition, such campaigns had been introduced with UNICEF funding in districts of Muzzafarpur and Ranchi, and in Jamshedpur (Urban).

(c) The following are the enrolment targets for primary, upper pri-

mary and elementary education classes in Bihar during the Eighth Plan period (1992—1997) :—

Primary	Upper primary	Elementary
84,00,000	21,00,000	1,05,00,000

(d) The following are the other specific steps taken to eradicate illiteracy in Bihar :

An innovative educational programme namely, Bihar Education Project, has been launched in Bihar with assistance from the UNICEF. It aims at bringing about qualitative improvement in existing educational system and, through it, in the overall sociocultural situation in the State. The scheme comprises all components of basic education, namely Early Childhood Care and Education, formal primary education, Non-Formal Education, post literacy and continuing education and women's education. Special emphasis has been laid on the education of dis-advantaged group such as SCs/STs and the women. The project envisages to cover in a phase manner 150 blocks spread over 20 districts over 5 years period 1991-92 to 1995-96.

32987 schools in 328 blocks have been covered under the 'Operation Black-board' for providing essential teaching/learning equipments and additional teachers in single teachers schools.

51705 Non-Formal Education Centres have been sanctioned in the State for covering children in the 9—14 age group.

2100 Jana Shikshan Nilayams have so far been sanctioned for providing an institutional frame-work for post literacy and continuing education.

Articles of Archaeological and Historical Importance recoverd from Ayodhya

1349. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that quite a large number of articles of archaeological and historical importance were recovered from demolished site of the disputed structure in Ayodhya;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what arrangements are made to preserve and protect the articles in view of their importance ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) to (c) Necessary information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Re-employment in Sangeet Natak Akademi

1350. SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that retired persons are again being re-employed on various posts in the Sangeet Natak Akademi;

(b) whether such re-employment is against the clause of the service bye-laws of the Akademi as well as against the directives of Government since it adversely affects the promotional avenues of the staff of the Akademi and jobs to unemployed; and